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70. The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the stored textual title signals are alphanumeric textual signals.

71. The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the alphanumeric textual signals are stored in the random access memory.

72. The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising the textual titles being stored in a memory location separate from a storage of the directory of the video programs recorded on the recording medium.

REMARKS

Applicants have claimed foreign priority based upon an international application filed in the U.S. on April 26, 1996. A certified copy of the PCT/US96/05767 application is being provided under separate cover.

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1-3, 7, 10-15, 17, 19-22 and 25-72 are now in the application. Claims 1 and 29 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 22, 25-26, 29 and 43-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sezan et al (5,956,458) in view of Yamagami (6,334,025) and Lemaire et al (5,444,768).

Amended Claim 1 calls for a method for providing voice titles for video programs recorded on a recording medium comprising:...recording video programs on the recording medium; ...generating audio signals of titles for the recorded programs;...converting the audio signals to textual title signals;...displaying on a screen a directory of the video programs recorded on the recording medium, wherein the directory includes textual titles associated with the displayed video

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programs;...selecting one of the video programs from the directory; and...converting a stored textual title signal corresponding to the selected video program to an audio signal to apprise a user of the voice title of the selected video program.

Amended Claim 29 calls for an apparatus for providing voice titles for video programs recorded on a recording medium comprising:...recording video programs on a recording medium and displaying on a screen a directory of the video programs recorded on the recording medium, and for selecting one of the video programs from the directory, wherein the directory includes textual titles associated with the displayed video programs; and...audio processing means...for generating audio signals of titles for the recorded programs, converting the audio signals to textual title signals, storing the textual title signals, and for converting a stored textual title signal, corresponding to a selected video program, to an audio signal to apprise a user of the voice title of the selected video program.

As such, the Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 29 are not unpatentable over Sezan in view of Yamagami and Lemaire.

Sezan (Col. 4, line 66 through Col. 5, line 8) teaches that the representative frames in an index frame may include "a sound clip which is associated with the representative frame" and several subsequent frames. However, this does not teach or suggest "generating audio signals of titles" for programs as is described in amended Claim 1 of the present invention. Sezan makes no suggestion that a sound clip associated with a representative frame comprises a voice title.

While amended Claim 1 calls for displaying a directory of recorded video programs, Sezan does not teach displaying such a directory. Sezan (Col. 4, lines 55-65) simply teaches displaying "one or more pages of representative frames" wherein each page is an index frame comprising a plurality of representative frames.

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The displayed representative frames (Col. 3, lines 29-35) are each associated with a predetermined event, such as "the beginning of a recording sequence", "the release of a pause button" or "the beginning of a special effects sequence." Therefore, the representative frames described in Sezan identify scenes comprising a single, uninterrupted video recording event.

Amended Claim 1 also calls for displaying the textual titles associated with the displayed video programs. Yamagami (Col. 10, lines 40-55) does not teach displaying textual titles. Yamagami simply discloses displaying a directory of image, audio and text files, wherein the files are represented by icons. In order to access the contents of a text file, a user must (Col. 11, lines 38-47) "select and activate" the text icon displayed in the directory.

Further, Sezan merely teaches (Col. 4, lines 8-12) displaying a plurality of representative frames with associated location data in one or more index frames. The Applicants fail to see where Sezan discloses, teaches or suggests any means by which a user may select, for any purpose, one of the displayed representative frames.

Finally, Lemaire (Col. 16, lines 47-56) discloses a portable computer device for the "efficient audible processing of electronic messages," especially "in an environment wherein the user's hands and eyes are otherwise occupied." The Applicants submit that such an application does not suggest "converting a stored textual title signal corresponding to the selected video program to an audio signal" to provide a user with the voice title for a program. The invention of Lemaire pertains to circumstances in which the visual display of information is inconvenient or impossible, it does not relate to augmenting a visually displayed title with an audio representation.

The portable computer device for audibly processing electronic messages of Lemaire does not relate to the camcorder of Sezan, the

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digital camera of Yamagami or the present invention. Audibly reproducing electronic messages for a user whose hands and eyes are occupied does not describe, teach or suggest audibly reproducing visually displayed textual titles.

The digital camera of Yamagami records separate still-image, audio and text files, and therefore does not relate to the simultaneous recording of full-motion video and audio. Additionally, the audio captured in Yamagami serves to augment a still-image file that does not incorporate audio. Recording separate still-image and audio files does not describe, teach or suggest associating independent audio titles with a recording that features integrated audio and video.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that there is no suggestion to combine the references of Sezan, Yamagami and Lemaire to result in the invention as set forth in Claims 1 and 29. Claims 2-3, 7, 10-15, 17, 19-22 and 25-28 depend from Claim 1. Claims 30-47 depend from claim 29. As such, these dependent claims are believed allowable based upon Claims 1 and 29.

Claim 48 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuen et al (5,488,409) in view of Yamagami.

Claim 48 calls for an apparatus for providing voice title information for video programs recorded on a recording medium, comprising:...a random access memory (RAM);...a video program recording control logic controller;...a microprocessor RAM controller; and...an audio input device coupled to the video program recording control logic controller and responsive to audio signals. Claim 48 also calls for the RAM being coupled to the video program recording logic controller through a voice recognition circuit, such that audio signals are converted to textual signals by the voice recognition circuit...and stored in the RAM...as stored textual signals corresponding to video programs recorded on the recording medium.

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As such, the Applicants submit that Claim 48 is not unpatentable over Yuen in view of Yamagami.

While Yuen discloses, among other things, a video tape player with a microprocessor controller, a RAM and a control logic circuit, Yamagami discloses a photographic camera. The "digital electronic camera" (Col. 8, line 67 through Col. 9, line 1) of Yamagami is designed such that (Col. 13, line 63-65) "[i]mage files, audio files and text files reside in the recording medium independently."

Applicants submit that Yamagami does not teach capturing video programs, it simply discloses capturing still-images. A user (Col. 7, line 59) "instruct[s] the camera to execute photography" and (Col. 8, lines 3-5) "by observing the video output unit 23, the photographer can confirm the still picture just recorded." When a user elects to view a stored image file, the user selects one index image using the pointing device on the control unit and enlarges the image. The image (Col. 11, lines 6-20) is then "displayed on the image display unit." Applicants fail to see where Yamagami discloses, teaches or suggests converting an audio signal into a textual title for a recorded video program.

Because Yamagami merely discloses recording individual still-image and audio files, it is unrelated to the video tape player of Yuen, which teaches the recording of programs with integrated audio and video portions. As such, Applicants submit that there is no suggestion to combine the references of Yuen and Yamagami to arrive at the subject matter of Claim 48. Claim 49 depends from claim 48. As such, dependent claim 49 is believed allowable based upon Claim 48.

Claims 50, 57, 59-62, 68 and 70-72 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sezan in view of Yamagami.

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Claim 50 calls for a method for providing voice titles for video programs recorded on a recording medium, comprising: ...recording video programs on the recording medium;... generating audio signals of titles for the recorded programs;...converting the audio signals to textual title signals and storing the textual title signals;...and displaying...a directory of the video programs recorded on the recording medium, the directory including textual titles derived from the stored textual title signals.

Claim 62 calls for an apparatus for providing voice titles for video programs recorded on a recording medium comprising:...means for recording video programs on the recording medium and for displaying...a directory of the programs recorded on the recording medium, the directory including textual titles derived from stored textual title signals; and...audio processing means,...for generating audio signals of titles for the recorded programs, converting the audio signals to textual title signals, and storing the textual title signals.

As such, the Applicants submit that Claims 50 and 62 are not unpatentable over Sezan in view of Yamagami.

As indicated above, Sezan does not teach generating audio signals of titles for recorded programs. Sezan simply discloses that a representative frame of an index frame may include a sound clip which is associated with the representative frame and several subsequent frames.

Further, also as discussed above, the directory disclosed in Yamagami does not display textual titles, it displays icons representing stored text files. A user desiring to view the contents of a stored text file (Col. 11, lines 39-40) must employ "the pointing device on the control unit to select and activate the text icon." Therefore, even if there was a motivation to combine these references, which there isn't, the subject matter disclosed

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by Sezan and Yamagami cannot be combined to arrive at the claimed invention.

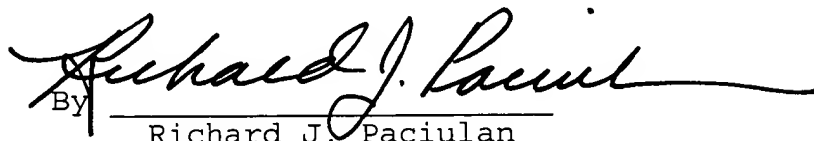
Moreover, the Applicants submit that there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Sezan and Yamagami. Sezan is drawn to a video tape player for recording segments of integrated audio and video. Yamagami is drawn to a digital electronic camera for recording individual still-image, audio and text files. At best, separate image and audio files can be linked in Yamagami to associate audio with a still-image.

As such, the Applicants submit that there is no suggestion to combine the references of Sezan and Yamagami to arrive at the subject matter of Claims 50 and 62. Claims 51-61 depend from claim 50. Claims 63-72 depend from Claim 62. As such, these dependent claims are believed allowable based upon Claims 50 and 62.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully assert that independent Claims 1, 29, 48, 50 and 62 are patentably distinct over the cited prior art and that all rejections to the claims have been overcome. Furthermore, since independent Claims 1, 29, 48, 50 and 62 are novel and nonobvious, the Applicants submit that all claims that depend from them are similarly novel and nonobvious. Entry of the Amendment and reconsideration and reexamination of the above-referenced Application are hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

(Underlining indicating insertions. Brackets indicating deletions.)

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for providing voice titles for video programs recorded on a recording medium comprising:

recording video programs on the recording medium;
generating audio signals of titles for the recorded programs;
converting the audio signals to textual title signals and
storing the textual title signals;

displaying on a screen a directory of the video programs recorded on the recording medium, wherein the directory includes textual titles associated with the displayed video programs;

selecting one of the video programs from the directory; and
converting a stored textual title signal corresponding to the selected video program to an audio signal to apprise a user of the voice title of the selected video program.

29. (AMENDED) An apparatus for providing voice titles for video programs recorded on a recording medium comprising:

means for recording video programs on the recording medium and for displaying on a screen a directory of the video programs recorded on the recording medium and for selecting one of the video programs from the directory, wherein the directory includes textual titles associated with the displayed video programs; and

audio processing means, coupled to the means for recording video programs, for generating audio signals of titles for the recorded programs, converting the audio signals to textual title signals, storing the textual title signals, and for converting a stored textual title signal, corresponding to a selected video program, to an audio signal to apprise a user of the voice title of the selected video program.